
NAVSEA Port Hueneme Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL NAVY AND COMMUNITY WELCOME HIGH-TECH NAVY SHIP TO PORT HUENEME

PORT HUENEME – The US flag swaying in the breeze, a brass quintet sounding, the red carpet rolled out, community groups greeting, and local residents waving is what you can expect to see as USS CORONADO (AGF 11) arrives at Port Hueneme on April 23.

NAVSEA Port Hueneme Surface Warfare Center Division has partnered with several community organizations to host and welcome the Navy's Third Fleet Command Ship and its crew for a two-day visit.

The festivities will kick off with a welcoming ceremony, cosponsored by the Ventura County Navy League and local community groups, at 1:00pm at Naval Base Ventura County's Wharf 3. The public is encouraged to attend the ceremony to welcome the crew of CORONADO to Port Hueneme and the surrounding communities.

The 700 crewmembers of CORONADO will be treated to a barbecue sponsored by community groups such as the Oxnard Tourism Board and the Ventura County Navy League on April 23. Local vendors have donated the food and resources for the event to show their support for the Navy.

CORONADO will welcome the public aboard for tours of the ship on April 24 from 12:00-4:00pm. During this time, NAVSEA Port Hueneme will hold an open house and invite the public to tour facilities such as the Self Defense Test Ship, the Surface Warfare Engineering Facility, the Underway Replenishment Test Site, and the Missile Training Facility.

Other activities surrounding the visit include Ventura County business and community leaders riding the ship from the Port of Los Angeles to Port Hueneme. It is an opportunity for the riders to learn about the Navy and the ship's high-tech capabilities. On day two, local high-tech firms will receive a tailored tour of the Navy's only "Sea-Based Battle Laboratory" onboard CORONADO.

The retrofitted amphibious transport vessel, CORONADO, was designated the Navy's first Sea-Based Battle Laboratory in October 2000. The ship serves as a test bed for new information management systems the Navy is evaluating for use in warships of the future.

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Testing new systems in an operational environment at sea allows the Navy to accelerate prototyping and evaluation in order to keep pace with rapid advances in technology. While in port, CORONADO will receive an assessment of her combat and weapon systems from the engineers and technicians at NAVSEA Port Hueneme. During the Assessment, the NAVSEA Port Hueneme team of engineers and logisticians will evaluate all of CORONADO's combat systems to ensure they are operating as safely and effectively as possible. The Assessment will also include operational, maintenance, tactical, and safety training.

Located at the Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme site, NAVSEA Port Hueneme, a component of the Naval Sea Systems Command, is the Navy's premier in-service engineering and logistics center and has been in existence for 38 years. NAVSEA Port Hueneme provides test and evaluation, in-service engineering, and integrated logistics support for weapon systems installed in the United States Navy fleet, United States Coast Guard fleet, and many foreign Navy fleets. NAVSEA Port Hueneme's vision is to provide safe, effective, and affordable weapon systems that enable ships and sailors to fight and win.

Visitors attending the Welcoming Ceremony (April 23, 1:00pm) and/or the public ship tours (April 24, 12:00-4:00pm) should enter through the Pleasant Valley Gate of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme and follow the signs to Wharf 3.

For more information on CORONADO's visit, contact the NAVSEA Port Hueneme's Public Affairs Office at (805) 228-6150.

For information on CORONADO, visit <http://www.comthirdflt.navy.mil/c3f/> .

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